

Pharmacy students join immunization blitz

Michael Brown

Interdisciplinary student collaboration got a real-world shot in the arm last week as an army of pharmacy students joined nursing students to administer flu shots as part of the University Health Centre's week-long North Campus immunization clinic.

"The interdisciplinary model is exciting for us because it allows nursing and pharmacy students to work side-by-side in partnership and provides an excellent educational opportunity for students on campus in a setting where they are getting far more experience than they would if they were just doing a small community clinic," said Kevin Friese, assistant director at the University Health Centre.

Following a trial program last year, this is the first year that a full complement of more than 60 pharmacy students were invited to work at the immunization blitz, which first began using nursing students in 2004 after demand for the shots outstripped what university staff could properly administer.

With the H1N1 flu season of the 2009–2010 school year doubling the number of people getting the flu shot, the health centre began to look in earnest at how it performs mass clinics on campus.

That year, the university administered 4,500 H1N1 shots over four months. Last year, the centre used the Dinwoodie Lounge and gave 3,300 shots in three days. This year, Friese says, with the help of the pharmacy and nursing students, the centre administered 4,236 vaccinations on North Campus in four days.

"Last year was the first year the pharmacy students could effectively participate, given that the province now allows pharmacists to do injections in the community, so we were approached by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences about whether we could use them," said Friese.

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A set to behold



Michael Brown

University of Alberta professor Jan Selman, recently inducted to the Royal Society of Canada and the City of Edmonton Hall of Fame, returns to U of A Studio Theatre as the director of *Yellow Moon* by David Greig. The contemporary drama, about two troubled teenagers who commit a crime and flee to the Scottish Highlands, runs from Nov. 3–12 at the University of Alberta's Timms Centre for the Arts.

'Larger-than-life' university board chair steps down

Michael Brown

Brian Heidecker claims he's retired, but it's hard to know exactly when that started.

With a curriculum vitae that has thickened exponentially through his so-called "retirement years", the outgoing University of Alberta Board of Governors chair will take another crack at retirement, although he doesn't hold up much hope that he'll have much luck.

"My kids will say, 'Dad, you spend more time at the university, working harder there than you did on the ranch, and you're supposed to be retired,'" said Heidecker at his farewell board meeting held Oct. 21. "My answer is that I get to work with a lot of fabulous people and we get to achieve a lot."

And achieve he did. Heidecker's 11-and-a-half years on the board,

the last five-and-a-half of which were spent as the board chair, will go down as one of the university's greatest periods of growth. During the 2004–05 academic year, the U of A went over the \$1 billion mark in revenues, and since 2000, more than \$2.5 billion has been invested into the campus and more than three million square feet of

space has been added. "I am fascinated with these projects, and if you want to get into a conversation about how many pounds of concrete we put in a certain building, I can help you with that," he said, adding there could never be enough cranes filling the campus skyline. "On time and on budget" was my big thing.

Taking on big projects is nothing new for the former Coronation

rancher, who founded and operated Drylander Ranch, a large-scale cattle and forage operation, from 1966 to 2006, while dedicating his precious time to more than 20 boards, which include the United Way, the Canadian Cattleman's Association, the Bank of Canada and ATB Financial.

However, whether it was because his four children have seven degrees from the U of A split between them, or that life on the farm forced Heidecker to abandon an engineering education one year in, of all his projects dearest to his heart is volunteering at the U of A.

"If you have the gumption and some get up and go, you can come to the U of A and get a fabulous education then proceed to go onto some remarkable careers and lifestyles," he said. "I believe you are going to do this infinitely better with a university education than without one."

His time at the U of A started out innocently enough, as an advisor from the private sector on the Program Development Committee for the new Agricultural Business Management Undergraduate Program in 1984. Heidecker increased his presence in what is now the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & En-

"If the university doesn't get out and tell its story, who in the world is going to tell it."

Brian Heidecker

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Medical researchers ID new multiple sclerosis drug target

Raquel Maurier

Medical researchers at the University of Alberta have discovered a potential new drug target for multiple sclerosis that could prevent the physical disability associated with the disease.

In the first phase of MS, those with the condition have inflammation of their brain cells, resulting in continuous cycles of inflammation attacks and recovery periods. In the second phase of the disease, the inflammation isn't as severe, but this is the stage where physical disability sets in due to the effects of substantial brain cells being killed in the first phase of the disease.

When immune cells become active due to inflammation, they can pass the blood brain barrier and enter the central nervous system. Some of these activated immune cells secrete a molecule, known as granzyme B, which can get inside neurons and wreak havoc, ultimately causing brain cell death. Granzyme B is found in MS brain lesions, especially in the early stages of inflammation. This molecule can get into brain cells through a "gate-keeper," known as receptor M6PR.

Researchers with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry discovered in lab experiments that if they prevent this granzyme B from entering neurons, "we can also prevent the killing of neurons," says principal investigator Fabrizio Giuliani, whose work was recently published in the peer-reviewed publication, The Journal of Immunology.

"It is this loss of brain cells in the long term that induces disability in those with MS," he says. "This new drug target for MS is specific for the neurodegenerative processes following inflammation, which should address this long-term loss of brain cells."

Giuliani, a researcher in the Division of Neurology and a practising neurologist, noted this latest research builds on previous findings by his colleagues within the faculty. Medical researcher and co-author Chris Bleackley made an earlier discovery about how granzyme B enters target cells through the receptor M6PR, while another faculty researcher discovered that the M6PR receptor is found mostly in neurons.

"We were just connecting the dots and said, 'OK, if this receptor is expressed in neurons specifically

"This new drug target for MS is specific for the neurodegenerative processes following inflammation, which should address this long-term loss of brain cells."

Fabrizio Giuliani

and not expressed in other cells, is it possible that this is the mechanism that allows this granzyme B to get into human neurons and start killing brain cells?' What we found is yes, this 'death' receptor allows this specific molecule to get in and that if you block the receptor, you also block the neurotoxic effect in neurons. This is an excellent example about collaboration with other researchers and translational research."

Many existing MS treatments primarily target brain inflammation, which is very effective in the first phase of the disease but not as helpful once patients reach the second phase. Giuliani says what is needed are new medications that can either repair inflamed brain cells or prevent brain degeneration in the first place. He says this new drug target could do just that, by preventing

brain cell death in the early stages of the disease.

With this new drug target, Giuliani adds that only a specific function of a cell would be blocked, not multiple functions of a cell. Many medications on the market block multiple functions of a specific type of cell. "We are blocking a specific function, not multiple pathways, and eventually this strategy could reduce the side effects of new drugs."

Giuliani and his fellow researchers are continuing their research in this area.

This research was supported through funding by the MS Society of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions and the University of Alberta Hospital Foundation. ■

Heidecker steps down as chair after more than 11 years on board

Continued from page 1

vironment through the 1980s before beginning a six-year stint with the university senate in 1991, and then onto the board of governors in 2000.

Besides the more than two dozen new buildings and retrofits that the university benefitted from under Heidecker's tenure, in 2004 he led the development of the document *A Case for Investment*, which ultimately helped achieve a \$4.5-billion commitment to higher learning from the province to go along with an unprecedented six-per-cent annual increase in funding for a five-year period.

However, the accomplishment that he is most proud of is the clean audit the university received from the provincial auditor general in April.

"It says something to the world that we're running the business that starts day one of each and every year using appropriate business practices along the way," said Heidecker. "My goal when I go to a reception is to speak to everybody, and when you are coming from a clean audit, you have credibility and everybody is singing from the same song sheet, which just makes life a whole lot easier."

Named as one of Alberta's 50 most influential people for 2005 by *Alberta Venture* magazine and known for his keen negotiation

skills, Heidecker's time as board chair will be remembered for his dedication to singing the praises of the U of A.

"If the university doesn't get out and tell its story, who in the world is going to tell it," said Heidecker at his final board presentation.

President Indira Samarasekera, who joined the U of A in 2005, says Heidecker was always someone she could turn to for sound advice. "It has been an extraordinary journey. Brian been has been a larger-than-life board chair and has given his wise council freely and certainly in a way that's been of enormous support to me as president. He will be missed."

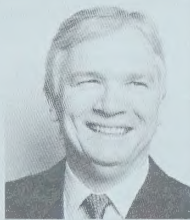
Heidecker says his plan is to slow down a bit, but admits he has a tough time saying no when it comes to the university.



Brian Heidecker and Indira Samarasekera read the sentiments written on a jobsite safety vest presented to Heidecker at the Oct. 21 board of governors meeting.

Richard Siemens

Acting board chair named



Gordon Clanachan

Gordon Clanachan, vice-chair and a public member of the University of Alberta Board of Governors, will serve as acting chair of the board, effective Nov. 1.

Clanachan takes over from outgoing chair Brian Heidecker, who has served as board chair since 2006 and has been a member of the board since 2000.

Clanachan will serve as acting chair until the minister of advanced education and technology appoints a new chair through an order-in-council at a future date.

Clanachan is a long-time governor with extensive committee service on the board, including as external member of the Board Audit Committee (2001–2006); external member of the Board Finance and Property Committee (2001–2006); member of the Board of Governors (2006–2009) (reappointed for second term in 2009); chair, Board Finance and Property Committee (2006–present); member of the Board Audit Committee (2007–present) (vice-chair since 2010) and member of the Board

Investment Committee (2007–present). Clanachan is the owner of Clanachan Enterprises, a consulting firm established in 1999 that provides business advisory services. He served as president and CEO of RailLink Ltd., a TSX-listed public company and Canada's largest regional railway, from 1994 to 1999. Prior to his career with RailLink, Clanachan spent 15 years with Price Waterhouse in Canada and the United States, specializing in the areas of management consulting and financial audit.

Clanachan also serves on a number of boards. He chairs the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority and is a director of Alberta Blue Cross, Bridgewater Bank and Melcor Developments Ltd. He is actively involved in the community as a member of the Rotary Club of Edmonton, and, in 2009, he was awarded the Fellow of Chartered Accountants designation by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta. He was also named Alberta Chamber of Resources Person of the Year in 1998. He is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. Clanachan is a graduate of Glasgow University in Scotland. ■

Discovering big oil reserves at a micro level

Brian Murphy

Getting trapped oil out of porous layers of sandstone and limestone is a tricky and costly operation for energy exploration companies the world over. But now, University of Alberta researchers have developed a way to replicate oil-trapping rock layers



Sushantha Mitra

and show energy producers the best way to recover every last bit of oil from these reservoirs.

Mechanical engineering professor Sushantha Mitra led a research team that uses core samples from oil drilling sites to make 3-D mathematical models of the porous rock formations that can trap huge quantities of valuable oil.

"The process starts with a tiny chip of rock from a core sample where oil has become trapped," said Mitra. "That slice of rock is scanned by a Focused Ion Beam-Scanning Electron Microscopy machine, which produces a 3-D copy of the porous rock." The replica is made of a thin layer of silicon and quartz at Nanofab, the U of A's micro/nano-fabrication facility.

The researchers call the finished product a "reservoir on a chip," or ROC.

"The hugely expensive process of recovering oil in the field is recreated right in our laboratory," said Mitra. He explains that researchers soak the ROC in oil and then water, which is under pressure, is forced into the chip to see how much oil can be pushed through the microscopic channels and recovered.

"ROC replicas can be made from core samples from oil-trapping rock anywhere in the world," said Mitra. "Oil exploration companies will be able to use ROC technology to determine what concentration of water and chemicals they'll need to pump into layers of sandstone or limestone to maximize oil recovery."

The research findings were published as the cover article in the journal *Lab Chip*, a publication of the Royal Society of Chemistry. ■

Good things not always found in small packages

Jamie Hanlon

If you believe that good things always come in small packages, University of Alberta

researcher Jennifer Argo's new study may change your mind.

In an article forthcoming in the *Journal of Marketing*, Argo explores how our consumption behaviours change when treats like chocolates and candies are placed in smaller packages. She says that people eat more of a product when it is placed in small packages rather than regular-sized packages. However, she said, those with low-appearance self-esteem—the term researchers use to describe people who are concerned about their body, weight or physical appearance—tend to consume more than the average population, especially when certain conditions seem favourable.

"The low-appearance self-esteem people ate the most when they were told that the caloric information was favourable (low in calories), when the caloric information was on the front of the package and when the product was visible (clear packaging)," said

Argo. "People in the high-appearance self-esteem category—those who did not indicate concerns about weight or physical appearance—still ate more, but there

was a big jump in the consumption quantity for [those with low self-esteem]."

This group tended to eat less when the product wasn't visible, the caloric information was missing or they believed there were more calories in the small packages than they expected.

She said elements such as a visible product and content labeling information served as cues to the group's susceptibility, which Argo noted gave this group a false sense of belief that the package would help them manage consumption and help them achieve potential weight-management goals.

While this might be true if only a single small package is present, Argo says that, in reality, small packaged goods are often sold in multiples and her study showed that these helpful, small packages are detrimental to consumers' waistlines.

"These consumers are basically saying, 'this package is going to protect me; it's going to help

me achieve my goal,' and so they relinquish control to the package," she said. "They throw up their hands and say, 'I don't have to worry because the package is taking care of everything for me.' As soon as they've given up initial control, they have no control to deal with that next package that's presented to them."

Argo says that buying the regular-sized packages of these types of snacks and exercising portion control will not only reduce calories, but also save money as well, although she says that some people may still opt to buy the small packages out of convenience. For this group, she counsels that they retake control and limit the number of packages they take out at any one time. And especially with the seductive call of leftover Halloween, Argo says the old adage of "watch what you eat" may not be a bad idea.

Relinquishing control to small packages is "a very cognitive process; people are purposefully doing this," she said. "In the study we found that if we interrupt the participants, if we distracted them with a task, they don't fall prey to overeating."

"When it's a small package, distractions are actually beneficial in some respects." ■

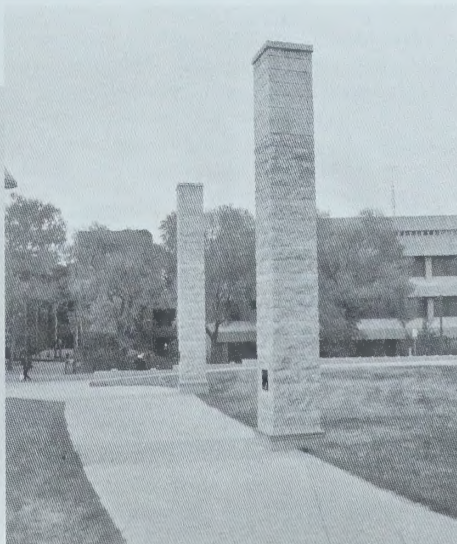


Jennifer Argo

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Susan Barton whose name was drawn as part of folio's Oct. 21 "Are You a Winner?" contest. She correctly identified the photo in question as being that of an oak tree located in the northwest corner of the General Services Building. For her correct identification, Barton has won a Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science pen, which contains a map of the building's terrace floors.

Up for grabs this issue is the last of those coveted pens. To win the pen, simply identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Monday, Nov. 14, and you will be entered into the draw.



(L-R) Alex Beattie, Kevin Fries and Sam Wang at the 2011 flu vaccination campaign.

Flu vaccination partnership

Continued from page 1

"We have had such strong success with the nursing students that we absolutely wanted to partner up with the pharmacy students."

Fourth-year pharmacy student Sam Wang says it has been interesting to see health care in a new light.

"We get to see what nursing students are taught and we get to see how they interact with patients, which is great because we do come from a slightly different perspective," said Sam Wang, a fourth-year pharmacy student, who gave injections at his first flu clinic. "On the other hand, they're not necessarily familiar with what we do and the education we get as far as injections are concerned, so maybe they get to see the techniques we learn."

Alex Beattie, who is in the second year of the two-year nurs-

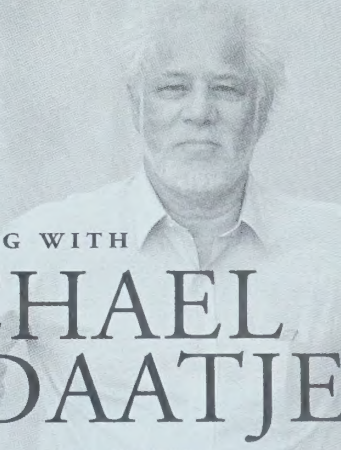
ing after-degree program, was just two shots into his time at the clinic when interviewed but says he could already see the benefits of having the pharmacy students on hand.

"It's always nice to have extra hands to help put people through," said Beattie. "They have an experience and a knowledge background that you don't normally see in nursing, so it's kind of nice to have them as part of the team."

He added he is curious about the sorts of things he can learn from the pharmacy students and is happy to pass on some tricks of the health-care trade from the nursing side.

"The pharmacy students have a little less experience in hospitals, and this provides them with an excellent opportunity to interact with patients and their health professional colleagues on a level that few pharmacists have within the community," he said. ■

Festival of IDEAS PRESENTS



AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL ONDAATJE

IN CONVERSATION WITH MARINA ENDICOTT




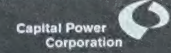
Michael Ondaatje, author of the critically acclaimed novel *The English Patient*, is coming to Edmonton's Winspear Centre Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Join the University of Alberta's Festival of Ideas for a one-on-one stage interview between two award-winning Canadian authors.

Ondaatje will also give a reading from his latest book, *The Cat's Table*, and conduct a Q-and-A session with the audience. A book signing will follow.

Tickets on sale online and by phone at the Winspear box office (780-428-1414) or Tix on the Square (780-420-1757).

Reserved seating: **\$25** (plus GST and service fee)
Students and seniors: **\$15** (plus GST and service fee)



The North Campus's Celebration Plaza was the site of the United Way 2011 Campaign thermometer, which has slowly but surely risen to mark donations on campus. This year's campaign ended on Oct. 21.

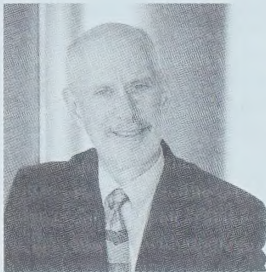
Augustana Campus receives top marks on university report card

Christopher Thrall

Academic units undergo peer review every five to seven years, and Augustana Campus hosted external reviewers for its first University of Alberta unit review in mid-February of this year. Their report and responses from the Augustana dean's office were recently shared with senior administration and members of the U of A's board of governors.

The unit review considers strengths, challenges, opportunities and best practices for each faculty and its contribution to the institution as a whole. It is intended to assess employees, facilities and program implementation.

"The review identifies Augustana's strengths and affirms the investment our campus has made in



Allen Berger

experiential learning, such as professor-led international programs and community service-learning," says former dean Roger Epp of the reviewers' report.

The review mentions a specific point of pride at Augustana: nearly one in five students has participated in an international study program in places such as Cuba, Costa Rica,

India and Germany. "If that is not the highest rate in Canada," the review stated, "there would not be many schools ahead of Augustana." The reviewers encouraged trumpeting that success and expanding the international activities of students on campus.

The report also applauds Augustana's focus on four specific academic skills: speaking, writing, critical thinking and information literacy. These skills are developed not only through majors, but also through Augustana's unique core curriculum, which encourages study

in the following five areas: creative and imaginative process, diversity and global studies, environmental sustainability, experiential learning and integrating knowledge.

The review presents three primary recommendations: Augustana Campus must preserve and enhance its unique identity as a liberal arts college; it should acquire more and improved space for science instruction, as well as new or renovated student housing, and the campus should consider strategies to diversify its enrolment base.

Augustana's response to these

recommendations has been swift. Marketing and promotional material, including the website and publications, boast Augustana's position as western Canada's premier public liberal-arts and sciences campus. Meanwhile, the faculty continues to consider ways to strengthen both the liberal-arts core and learning outcomes assessment. In general, the campus has embraced its responsibility to promote the value of a liberal education among students, staff, faculty and the community.

"The academic unit review is a report card and a road map," says Dean Allen Berger. "We can use it to assess where we are, refine our academic vision and plan for ongoing improvements. While Augustana received very positive feedback, I am confident that our next review will be even better."

“While Augustana received very positive feedback, I am confident that our next review will be even better.”

Allen Berger

U of A fundraising structure to change

Folio staff

In recognition of the need to diversify and expand the University of Alberta's base of financial support and to deepen the engagement of alumni in support of the educational mission, the board of governors has approved the creation of the university's first vice-president (advancement).

Reporting to the president, the vice-president (advancement) will work closely with the board of governors, alumni council and senate to strengthen the university's fundraising and alumni relations

programs and implement strategies to increase financial support. The position of vice-president (advancement) will assume the duties of the position of chief advancement officer.

"The establishment of a vice-president (advancement) position brings to fruition years of investment in the fundraising and alumni relations activities undertaken by deans, previous presidents, senior administrators and the university's advancement team and provides the foundation on which to build a strong portfolio," said President Indira Samarasekera.

ASTech gold for bio-industrial researcher

Ken Mathewson

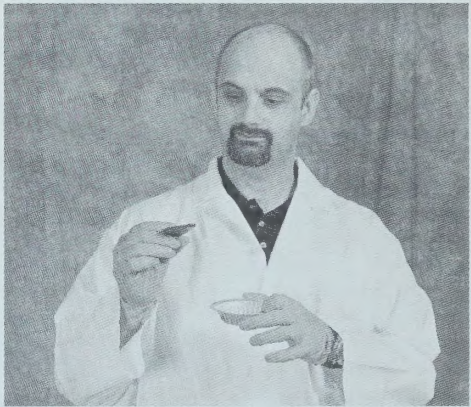
In recognition of his groundbreaking research and collaborative efforts as the head of the Biorefining Conversions Network, scientist David Bressler took home the Innovation in Agricultural Science Award at the Alberta Science and Technology Leadership in Alberta Foundation Awards held in Calgary Oct. 28.

His nomination for the ASTech Award was put forth by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency for his work in converting plant oils and animal fats into fuels and hydrocarbons, as well as his innovations in converting scrap cow products into plastics.

Bressler was one of three honourees with the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science to be nominated for an award in the field of biosciences, along with Randy Weselake—nominated for his work in the improvement and development of plant oils—and Frank Robinson, for his development of the "There's a Heifer in Your Tank" component of the Animal Sciences program at the U of A.

"All my training was at the U of A, but my degrees are built in science," said Bressler. "My whole career was built here. I spent time in engineering working on heavy oil and upgrading, and now I'm working in a faculty where I get to sit at the interface of forestry and agriculture and utilize the skills of experts in different fields throughout the network."

Other ASTech nominees include Janet Elliott, professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering and Canada Research Chair in Interfacial Thermodynamics, nominated in the category of Out-



David Bressler

standing Leadership in Alberta Technology.


Known for creating new paradigms for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in physics, mathematics, biology and physical chemistry, Elliott's research equations, applied to the cryopreservation field, will be instrumental in making cartilage and other transplants more available in Canada. Currently transplants are limited by the short timeframe the tissue is viable.

The "Let's Talk Science" University of Alberta Chapter was nominated in the science and technology educational awareness category. "Let's Talk Science" is a national organization that delivers science learning programs and services that turn children and youth on to science, keep them engaged in learning and develop their potential to become 21st century citizens, innovators and stewards.

The ASTech Leadership Foundation was created to celebrate and promote the achievements of Alberta's scientific and technological communities.

“My whole career was built here. I spent time in engineering working on heavy oil and upgrading, and now I'm working in a faculty where I get to sit at the interface of forestry and agriculture and utilize the skills of experts in different fields throughout the network.”

David Bressler



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U of A survey suggests Albertans supportive of tighter links to China

Jamie Hanlon

It's a sign that will surely bring double happiness to those who wish to see stronger links to China. The results of a new survey by the University of Alberta's China Institute suggest that Albertans are strongly supportive of provincial and federal efforts to diversify the province's economic linkages.

The survey, conducted this past summer by the Population Research Lab at the University of Alberta, showed that more than two-thirds of Albertans believe that China's increasing economic strength benefits the province and almost 80 per cent of Albertans see China as an important export market for Alberta's goods and services.

Further, more than half of those polled felt Alberta should decrease its reliance on the U.S. market, while three-quarters felt that Alberta should trade more with its Asian partners to diversify its economy. However, China Institute director Gordon Houlden cautions that the results should not be interpreted as anti-American sentiment.

"I wouldn't draw the conclusion that it

means that we are going to take our eggs out of the U.S. basket and put them in the China basket; rather, it means that we'd have another basket," he said. "It's really an add-on, an alternative. To have only one customer is dangerous. Having options for trade that help maintain full employment here is something we need to look to."

Even on such hot-button proposals—welcoming Chinese investment in the province or support for building pipelines to the west coast to export energy to Asia—surveyed Albertans were in favour two-to-one. Overall, Albertans believed that China will play a significant role in future opportunities of people in the province, especially when it comes to welcoming increased tourism.



Gordon Houlden

"Concerning increased tourism by Chinese visitors, those numbers are the highest of all—86 per cent," said Houlden. "Chinese tourists will arrive, but it won't happen overnight. There are millions of Chinese travelling abroad every year and they will eventually help our economy."

Houlden says that the survey is a clear sign that Albertans want to do business with the "Middle Kingdom." The support, he notes is "not universal, but it's very strong." And in the instances where respondents remained undecided on some of the questions, Houlden says that indecision highlights an opportunity for government to do more to inform the population on the benefits of, and ease any concerns about, trade with China.

"Whether the government educates the public through statements or the education system, it's important to address those uncertain numbers—and some will go in each direction—but I think the level of understanding about China is not yet adequate," he said.

The results of the survey hold good news for both the provincial and federal governments, said Houlden. With both levels of

"This report should put the wind into the government's sails in terms of efforts to enhance relationships with China."

Gordon Houlden

government seeking to build stronger relations with China, the survey results signal broad public support to continue with those plans.

"This report should put the wind into government's sails in terms of efforts to enhance relationships with China," he said. "For any and all the people in the legislature, including the premier, who have an interest in expanding Alberta's ties with China, this survey is welcome news—it means you've got public support closely tracking government planning."

The full report can be viewed at the China Institute's website: www.china.ualberta.ca

Ironman pushes new heart to the limit

Laurie Wang

Twenty-five years ago Dwight Kroening was clinging to life in an Arizona hospital, waiting for a new heart. Kroening got that new heart and has, since then, made good use of it. He's the first heart recipient to ever complete an Ironman Triathlon, and he will compete in his second Ironman race on Nov. 20 at the same place where he received the donated organ.

"Doing this race the second time is unbelievable. It's unheard of," says Mark Haykowsky, PhD, a physical therapy professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine who's been working with Kroening for seven years. "According to the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation's registry, started in 1982, more than 100,000 heart transplant procedures have been done and only around 100 recipients have lived to 25 years post-transplant."

Kroening met Haykowsky when

he was doing a study that looked at heart recipients' responses to exercise. Kroening, who has stuck with Haykowsky and used his expertise since, says the U of A researcher gave him the confidence to train for this event by testing his heart's response to intense training.

"The type of research Mark is doing could have so much benefit to the transplant world and people who've had heart transplants. There is science behind it. With training, with exercise, with time, your heart is potentially going to function like a normal heart," says Kroening. "We don't have an excuse not to exercise, stay healthy, stay fit and eat right."

Kroening was 26 years old when he received his new heart.

"The transplant saved my life. I'm hoping and praying that I'll have the opportunity to meet the donor's family when I go down in November. It would mean so much to meet and thank them."

When asked whether or not he's nervous competing in one of the world's most gruelling races for the



Dwight Kroening

second time, Kroening nods without any hesitation. "It's going to be quite emotional, knowing that the donor came from Phoenix. It will be a significant thing for me as it is 25 years after the transplant and I'm racing right where it all happened."

Haykowsky will be going with Kroening to the Ironman Arizona race. "Dwight is the first to do the race 25 years after the transplant. I'm going to go support him and cheer him on."

Using photons to manage data

Brian Murphy

Managing light to carry computer data, such as text, audio and video, is possible today with laser light beams that are guided along a fibre-optic cable. These waves consist of countless billions of photons, which carry information down the fibre across continents.

A research team at the University of Alberta wants to refine the optical transmission of information by using a single photon, the fundamental building block of light, to allow unprecedented applications in optical information transfer.

Zubin Jacob, an electrical and computer engineering researcher, says that rather than spreading data over waves of light, the goal is to use single particles of light—photons.

"Unfortunately, the efficient generation of single photons for practical applications is a serious engineering challenge," said Jacob.

Jacob and his research team are looking into metamaterials to

tackle this problem. A metamaterial is a medium that has designer nanostructures in it, giving it technical capabilities beyond any materials we currently have. "The metamaterial would efficiently collect single photons of light and allow their transmission."

At other universities, researchers are looking at attaching single photons to waves of electrons. The electrons and photons combine to form a plasmon wave that can be transmitted on a metal nanowire.

Jacob says the benefit of working with single photons for transmitting computer data is the ability to encode much more complex information on an individual particle of light. "A single photon could carry encryption codes, which are far more complex than the security password information we currently use to protect sensitive data."

Jacob says that this technology is at least 10 years away. "This technology is destined for markets such as the military that require extremely high levels of data encryption."

Pain after car accidents: a pain in the neck or is it all in the brain?

Laurie Wang

After her Honda Civic was totalled in a car crash, Melissa Mucci was told she was fine because she didn't have any broken bones or serious injuries.

"My doctor said, 'You're young. You have whiplash. No big deal, you'll be fine,'" says Mucci. But this was not her experience. Her back and neck were very sore and she experienced pain for the next two years.

"I didn't have an injury per se, but I didn't have the same mobility in my muscles and joints. It's hard when you experience pain, [because] nobody can see a wound or broken bone."

Physical therapist Geoff Bostick from the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine says situations like Mucci's are very com-

mon and whiplash is misunderstood.

His new study found that how one understands their pain is important for people with whiplash. For example, negative expectations of recovery, which represent one's understanding of one's condition, mean higher levels of pain later on.

Bostick and his team surveyed 72 people who have had a recent motor vehicle accident and tracked their pain for the next six months. He found that, on average, the more negative the expectation of recovery was, the higher the level of pain experienced three and six months later.

"The study shows that even early after an injury, health-care providers can't just look at patients' test results—it's important to understand the unique contexts of each patient and how they think and

feel about their pain," Bostick says.

"These interpretations of pain are known to interact with the biology of pain processing. Thoughts about pain can be as important as what is happening in the joints, nerves and muscles in the neck. We are great at assessing joints, nerves and muscles, but we should not overlook the brain. Facilitating a comprehensive understanding of one's pain can only lead to better management, especially self-management."

Mucci is thankful Bostick spent time getting to know her situation before treating her.

"It wasn't until I went to the physical therapy teaching lab at the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine that I received treatment that really helped with the pain," says Mucci. "Geoff was really able to get what

I was going through. He took the time to understand me and took my pain seriously. His exercises and teaching motivated me to help myself get better—and I did. Previous treatments provided short-term relief but even though I'm not 100 per cent, I now know how to manage my pain."

"There is an unfortunate stigma about whiplash—just because an X-ray or MRI report states there is no pathology, this does not mean there are no plausible reasons for persisting pain. It is important to realize that while pain is not easily measured, it is very real and can be understood. However, it's more complicated than just the physical tissue damage," says Bostick.

Bostick recently successfully defended this study in his PhD.



Geoff Bostick guides Melissa Mucci in a physio exercise that will help her gain strength and relieve pain.

Killam Fellowship winner brings history of ‘Big Science’ to life

Geoff McMaster

When the Shuttle *Columbia* was scheduled to repair the Hubble Space Telescope in 2005, officials at the National Space and Aeronautics Agency decided the trip posed too much risk to astronauts. They cancelled the mission, but the public outcry over the fate of Hubble was enormous and the decision was eventually reversed. In 2009, *Atlantis* successfully carried out all the necessary repairs on the telescope.

This widespread public support for Hubble spoke not only to the telescope’s perceived value to science, but also its ability to capture the collective imagination with striking images relayed from the deepest, darkest recesses of the universe, appearing on the covers of magazines and newspapers around the world.

Just why society invests financially, socially and emotionally in projects of such magnitude—ones that require the work of thousands of scientists, complex coalitions and, in the case of Hubble, some \$20 billion to build and maintain—is just the kind of question that gets Robert Smith up in the morning.

“To form accurate accounts of the history of ‘Big Science,’ it is essential to consider not just scientific and technical factors, but also often social, political, managerial and economic factors, and perhaps legal and ethical factors, too,” he says. “Today a scientific instrument placed at the frontier of the knowledge represents a political and managerial achievement is every bit as significant as the technical feat.”

Smith’s ability to convey the history of space science technology and astronomy in a compelling way has garnered him considerable recognition worldwide, but most recently the University of Alberta’s Killam Annual Professorship, awarded for outstanding contributions to research, teaching and community service.

His first book, *The Expanding Universe: Astronomy’s Great Debate, 1900–1931*, published in 1982, quickly became a classic, described by *Nature* as “a near definitive account.” He has since written books and articles on the U.S. Space Program, the Soviet satellite Sputnik and

the Hubble Telescope. He was recruited to the U of A in 1998 from his joint position at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington and Johns Hopkins University.

Most recently Smith has been tracking the development of the James Webb Space Telescope, scheduled to launch in 2018, a joint project between NASA, the European Space Agency and



Robert Smith



This image, captured by the Hubble Telescope, shows two galaxies colliding.

the Canadian Space Agency, with a price tag of about \$8.7 billion. But what drew him to the Department of History and Classics at the U of A from the centre of the political universe was the opportunity for more contact with students, he says, and he’s never looked back.

“I enjoy teaching a lot. In my previous position I taught maybe one course a year, and I didn’t have graduate students in the same way.”

Successful teaching is now clearly high on his list of achievements. Over the last three years, his evaluations for a senior undergraduate course called “Stonehenge to the Space Age: History of Astronomy and Cosmology,” have brought in stellar student scores of 4.8, 4.8 and 4.9 out of 5.

“Robert Smith is an excellent teacher at every level,” says history colleague Susan Smith. “He has a record of outstanding teaching to undergraduate students and excellent supervision of graduate students.

“Despite the fact that PhD students in American history typically choose to study in the United States, Robert has attracted a steady stream of excellent, award-winning students.” ■

Researchers collaborate to make space exploration safer

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta researchers have taken on a mission to make manned space exploration safer by measuring the threat of radiation to crews aboard the International Space Station.

The Canadian Space Agency awarded the U of A \$250,000 to develop equipment to monitor the

radiation levels outside the spacecraft. Radiation in space is made up of high-energy particles generated on the surface of the sun and in far-off galaxies and can be lethal to those who come in contact with it.

The device is called the Canadian Sweeping Energetic Particle Telescope, or SWEPT. The U of A’s space physics researchers and engineering faculty are collaborat-

ing on the project and they have six months to come up with a concept design. If the Canadian Space Agency accepts the idea it could be manufactured into shoebox-sized hardware that will be attached to the exterior of the International Space Station.

Bob Fedosejevs, engineering professor and team lead, says SWEPT technology is badly needed. “Radi-

ation levels inside the ISS are constantly monitored, but what you really need is a device outside the spacecraft that measures incoming high-energy particles,” he said. “The more we know about the frequency and fluctuating intensity of solar and cosmic radiation, the better the shielding technology that can be developed.”

Fedosejevs says the U of A’s concept design will rotate as much as 180 degrees so it can measure radiation at a wide angle coming towards the spacecraft.

NASA considers radiation shielding for astronauts a major concern for its long-term plan of sending crews back to the moon and then on to Mars. For decades it’s been widely accepted that the combined effects of cosmic and solar radiation could expose human space travelers to DNA damage, cancer, cataracts and neurological disorders.

Ian Mann, head of U of A’s space physics researchers on this project, says early manned space exploration missions that sent Americans to the moon were just lucky they didn’t

encounter radiation problems. “If the astronauts were exposed to cosmic radiation for longer periods, or if their capsules had encountered a massive solar storm, there would have been serious consequences.”

The Canadian Space Agency is funding a total of six concept research projects for technology related to future space exploration ventures. The U of A is the only university among a field of private-sector space technology engineering firms on the agency’s list.

Mann says being chosen for the SWEPT project says a lot about the U of A’s future in the field of space-exploration technology.

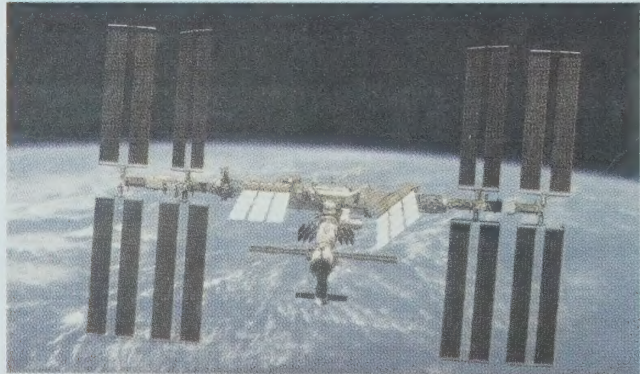
“If the university can design a radiation experiment in partnership with the Canadian Space Agency and other space agencies and fly its technology at the International Space Station, we will be demonstrating our excellence in space science and space engineering,” said Mann. “To undertake key space-exploration challenges right here in Edmonton is an incredible, exciting opportunity.” ■

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U of A space physics and engineering researchers are collaborating on the design of a device to measure radiation levels outside the International Space Station.

'Sturgeon surgeon' bugs ancient fish to track its dwindling population

Bev Betkowski

Owen Watkins is skilled at deftly sewing radio transmitters into lake sturgeon, one of Alberta's most ancient fish. He jokingly calls it "sturgery" but, wordplay aside, his research project is addressing a serious problem.

The lake sturgeon, classified as an endangered species in Canada, has been in existence for 200 million years, but its numbers are dangerously low—about 1,700 fish—in Alberta's North Saskatchewan River. Watkins, a master's student in the Department of Renewable Resources, is working in collaboration with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to find out why the population is low and what can be done to manage the situation. Currently, there are four to six lake sturgeon per river kilometre, compared to a healthy population in, for instance, Wisconsin, where the sturgeon are managed to 150 per river kilometre.

"Right now, five per cent of those 1,700 fish are mature, and if we assume a ratio population of 50:50 male to female in any given year, there are only about eight female

fish that are spawning," said Watkins, who also works as a woodlands area fisheries biologist with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Female fish can take upwards of 25 years to mature and can live up to 154 years. The overall sturgeon population should be showing a wide age variety in the river, but the oldest sturgeon his research team has been able to find is 64.

"There is a possibility of losing the species completely," he says.

Popular with sport fishermen, the sturgeon historically was commercially harvested and shipped to Europe as a food source and today could be an indicator of river health, Watkins said.

Spanning 500 kilometres of the river between Drayton Valley in west-central Alberta and the Onion Lake bridge on the Saskatchewan border, Watkins' study is testing three theories on the population: first, that the fish population is now slowly recovering from low oxygen levels that existed prior to the 1960s before Edmonton began treating its sewage; second, that the fish use the river only seasonally to spawn, forage and then leave; and third, the possibility that the population is

being overfished, even with a catch-and-release regulation, there is an associated mortality factor.

By implanting transmitters, tagging, measuring and collecting age data on the fish, the researchers are tracking their habitat movements, deriving population estimates and collecting other data to get a snapshot of what the sturgeon population has been doing for the past 20 years.

"We want to get an idea of whether the population is up, down or unchanged."

Fishermen on the river are also being surveyed as part of the study.

Initial positive findings indicate that young sturgeon, aged two and three, are being found, which means the fish are reproducing, Watkins noted.

The team's final findings will be presented to the provincial government and will "guide a recovery plan and help manage the North Saskatchewan River not just for sturgeon, but for the benefit of other river fish," he added.

Watkins' research is funded through Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and through Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program. ■



Owen Watkins releases a lake sturgeon equipped with a transmitter. Watkins says poor lake sturgeon populations could be an indicator of river health.

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Casting an eye on life under the surface

Geoff McMaster

Andrea Soler describes herself as hyper-meticulous and organized. She likes things in their proper place, contained within boundaries. Blame it on a brief stint years ago as a banker.

That's why it came as something of a revelation when she eventually threw caution to the wind and allowed herself to literally paint outside the lines.

"According to my art instructors I was a bit too rigid," she says of her experience taking independent studies courses in painting and printmaking at the U of A. "They told me to mess things up a bit, and I was so angry and resistant. But look at me now."

An internal communications associate for the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry by day, Soler counts her messy moment as a breakthrough in her development as an artist. The results were recently on public display at the Milner Gallery, part of a show called "Out There," and mounted in collaboration with two recent graduates of the university's bachelor of fine arts program, Camille Louis and Kim Lew.

According to their collective statement, the show's title refers to a need for escape, "mentally traveling out of the city into an introspective space that might

remind the viewer of places they have been or that they would like to be in."

And as one might expect, Soler's paintings are anything but constrained, reveling in an exuberant use of colour and free-from expression.

"My artwork is about life beneath the surface, be it wetlands, forests or microscopic views of nature and the human body," she says, adding that "life forms we cannot see at first glance" are of particular interest to her. Her latest work shows a fascination with human biology, such as bacteria and cancer cells. One piece, "a bit X-rated" she says, is called "The Race" and captures the moment of human conception.

Trained since high school in a number of media including painting, printmaking, sculpture and film in her native city of Bogota, Colombia, as well as in Richmond, Virginia, and in England, it was while living in Toronto, working towards a public relations certificate at Ryerson University, that she first heard about the international reputation of the U of A's fine arts department, especially its print-makers. So when her husband was transferred to Edmonton, she couldn't have been happier.

"The facilities here are the best I've seen anywhere," she says of the U of A's fine arts studios. "Taking independent studies here was a positive experience overall. I learned so much from everyone in the department."

About a year ago, Soler landed her communications job in the faculty. Like many accomplished artists, she is forced to pursue her first love on the side, but she adds that her profession and her art are simply different points on a wider creative spectrum.

"I've always liked all forms of communications," she says. "Art is just one. A lot of my job right now is very creative. It's good to know my creative skills are so transferable to practical things like a newsletter or website." ■



Andrea Soler



The Race by Andrea Soler. (Photos supplied)

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Canada Research Chair renewal enables marquee studies

Jane Hurly

Over the past decade, the correlations between physical activity and cancer prevention, treatment recovery and survivorship have become increasingly clear. In fact, according to the American Cancer Society's Global Facts and Figures, exercise is, without dispute, a key component in the treatment of a disease that claims up to 10 million lives globally each year.

Canada Research Chair in Physical Activity and Cancer Kerry Courneya is one of the pioneering minds in this burgeoning field. With the recent federal announcement of new and renewed CRCs, Courneya, whose Tier 1 CRC was renewed for a further seven years, says it's a not only welcome recognition of his work at the national and international level but also a welcome boost for his Behavioural Medicine Lab and the large-scale projects he currently has underway.

"The greatest benefit of the CRC is the protected research time," says Courneya, "and that enables me to do higher-profile, larger scale projects—an expectation of the CRC program—which

"The greatest benefit of the CRC is the protected research time, and that enables me to do higher-profile, larger scale projects—an expectation of the CRC program—which will have an impact on both the field and practice."

Kerry Courneya

will have an impact on both the field and practice. I call these the 'marquee' projects."

Several of these marquee projects are currently underway, including the Care trial, an exercise intervention in breast cancer patients going onto chemotherapy. "We've accrued 301 women into this trial," says Courneya. Working with cancer centres in Vancouver and Ottawa, Courneya is looking at the effectiveness of aerobic versus resistance training in women with breast cancer.

A second large-scale trial, the Challenge trial, is a multi-national trial involving participants in Canada and Australia and co-led by Courneya, which "is looking at an exercise intervention in colon cancer survivors with disease-free survival or recurrence as the primary end point," he explains.

"To the best of our knowledge this is the first study looking at whether exercise can reduce the risk of the disease coming back in any cancer survivor group."

The research team hopes to randomly gather 962 colon cancer survivors from 20 cancer centres across Canada and 10 across Australia into the study.

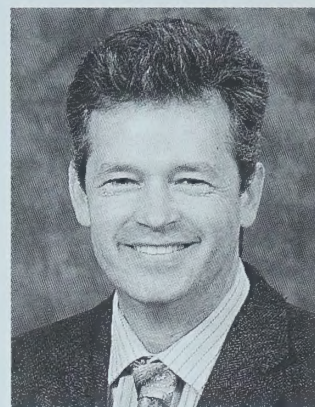
In addition, he'll be co-leading the groundbreaking Amber study, a Canada Institutes of Health Research team grant, focusing on physical activity and breast cancer survivorship, which will shortly begin recruiting 1,500 breast-cancer survivors. "This is the first study to have physical activity and fitness at its core," says Courneya. "Most studies might have a self-reported physical activity component, but this one is grounded in physical activity and fitness and built around it."

"As such, components of the study including maximal exercise testing in cardio-respiratory fitness, maximal strength testing, muscular endurance testing, body composition assessment and accelerometers to give us an objective measure of active and sedentary behaviours."

Courneya may be a busy researcher, but with more time for research afforded by the CRC, he's also supervising a large cohort of graduate students. There's no question, they benefit too.

"The additional support for research afforded by the CRC funding means more support for graduate students in the lab and the ability to take on more students – and it gives me more time to interact with them in developing their research programs," says Courneya, adding that's an added attraction for potential graduate students interested in this field too.

With a slate of projects in progress that will take him well beyond his second term as a CRC, Courneya is looking forward to the new Alberta Institute for Physical Activity and Health, slated to be housed on the top floor of the new Physical Activity and Wellness Centre, which breaks ground in spring 2012.



Kerry Courneya

For Courneya, the close quarters with his research team, student cohort and other researchers in physical activity and health will afford clear advantages.

"The faculty's behavioural medicine researchers will be housed here together, as will other researchers who may be looking at diabetes, heart disease or Alzheimer's disease and exercise, for example, and that makes for good quality interaction. I think the institute will facilitate excellent interdisciplinary collaborations between other researchers in this field, and that's very positive."

Independence need not cease for the elderly after a partner's death

Jamie Hanlon

The death of a spouse is always a tragedy, but for seniors, that tragedy can spur some significant life changes. And one University of Alberta researcher says the choices they make are something policymakers need to pay attention to.

Sociologist Lisa Strohschein says that losing a partner can precipitate the need for the surviving spouse to leave the residence they once shared. And the bereavement period is often key for them or their family members to decide whether it makes sense for that person to continue living alone or whether they give up living independently.

"Two people can take care of each other; they can share the burden of household tasks and may share income sources that allow them to live the kind of life that allows them to live independently," she said. "What this study shows is that, in fact, bereavement is a triggering mechanism (for the surviving spouse to move out of independent living)."

Strohschein's research noted that these seniors choose to either move into an institution or to reside with family members, most often their adult children. She says that when it came to these decisions, men and women were both equally likely to move when their partner died. She also noted that immigrants to Canada were more likely to reside with their families than their Canadian-born counterparts. Yet, she says, more needs to be done to help seniors make the final choice of where to live, but when to move should be left to the seniors themselves.

"Perhaps we can do a better job of providing services and/or counseling for recently widowed seniors



Lisa Strohschein

to help them make decisions that are going to be right for them," said Strohschein, "and provide more services for those ones that really do want to move out of independent living who say, 'I can no longer bear these burdens,' to ensure that they are supported."

Strohschein says that understanding the processes that lead to seniors' decisions to leave their homes is important for the government to acknowledge, especially with an aging population. She says that developing processes and putting services in place would allow these people to retain their independence and their dignity in their twilight years, which is critical to ensuring the system does not become needlessly taxed.

"How do we delay that onset of moving a person to institutional care, care that tends to be quite costly and can be depersonalizing for the person who's receiving it," Strohschein said. "As people come towards the end of their lives, how do we give them the most ability and the greatest dignity to exercise their right or their need for independence?"

"Coming up with other kinds of options that are going to maintain seniors' independence as long as possible, and give them the services that they need to help maintain that, are going to be absolutely critical."

"Perhaps we can do a better job of providing services and/or counseling for recently widowed seniors to help them make decisions that are going to be right for them."

Lisa Strohschein

Public Member University of Alberta Board of Governors

Honourable Greg Weadick, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving as a public member on the University of Alberta Board of Governors.

A public member shares with the Chair and other members of the board the responsibilities of: governing the university; formulating policies enabling the board to make responsible decisions on fiscal and academic matters; establishing the purpose and vision of the University; and has a commitment to the academic, financial and social well-being of the university and to adult learning generally.

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For information on the University of Alberta please visit the website at: <http://www.ualberta.ca/> and <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/> for the University's Board of Governors

Application Deadline: November 14, 2011

Researcher seeks solutions for steam and hot-water burns

Bev Betkowski

Dave Fennell has a list of injuries at various work sites in North America, starting with the most recent ones in the summer of 2011. All have one thing in common: they are steam or hot water burns, most of them serious. The very last incident on the page lists a fatality—a worker who died in 2009 after suffering hot water burns to 80 per cent of his body.

As head safety advisor for Imperial Oil Resources, Fennell sees the list as a disturbing trend that is emerging in the entire oil and gas industry, a type of injury that has yet to be addressed.

"I don't believe that our industry in general is fully aware of the problem," said Fennell. "But when we started talking at safety forums about this type of injury, the feedback I was hearing was of similar incidents across the board."

In an effort to stop serious injuries and save lives, a University of Alberta team of researchers is collaborating with Fennell and other industry partners to develop new fabrics that can be turned into protective work clothing, specially designed to deal with hot water and steam burns. The U of A's Protective Clothing and Equipment and Research Facility has been working with resource industries over the past 25 years to develop safety standards for clothing to protect against workplace hazards like flash fires, but new industrial technology brings with it new challenges, Fennell noted.

"Fifty years ago most of Alberta's oil came from conventional sources—it flowed out of the ground. Today, most of the province's production comes from heavy oil; oilsands in the Fort McMurray and Athabasca areas, and steam injection in the Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Lloydminster areas. This is the future of Alberta oil."

Steam and hot water have become vital tools in accessing and thinning the heavy oil, which has the consistency of peanut butter. And with that technology comes a type of burn injury for which little or no safety standards or personal protective equipment exist.

"It was one of those issues that, until we started talking about it as an industry, we didn't realize we had a problem," Fennell said. In fact, the U of A research team, led by professor emeritus Betty Crown, is working with Fennell and other industry sources to gather hard statistics on the number and types of steam and hot water injuries happening in the North American workplace.

Besides oil and gas workers, those in utilities, chemical and refinery workplaces are also at risk of water and steam burns. The issue also extends to workers in the laundry and food industries. "They work around hot water every day," Fennell noted.

Crown, of the Department of Human Ecology, has teamed with Mark Ackerman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to develop testing protocols for protective fabrics

and with Megan Strickfaden, an assistant professor of human ecology, to explore workplace behaviours regarding safety clothing and to design more acceptable and effective garments.

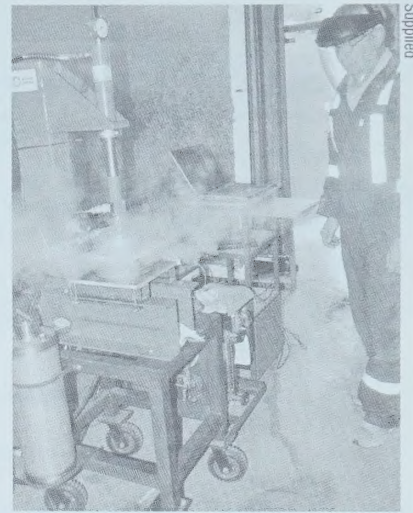
"From a research perspective, we want to understand what it is that will make one fabric more protective than another," Crown said. "We had no test device, so Mark (Ackerman) developed it and we were able to test a series of fabrics and develop specifications for fabrics and for designs of protective clothing."

Crown expects those findings to soon be in front of a Canadian General Standards Board committee for review, and results could start to be seen in the workplace in a year or so.

The goal is to develop a combination garment that protects skin against both flash fire and steam or hot water burns—"flash and splash" protection in Fennell's words—yet breathes and is comfortable to wear. "It's that third criterion that we haven't been able to meet," Fennell said, noting that when a garment is uncomfortable, workers tend to not wear it properly.

The U of A's three-pronged approach to developing safety garments is what drew industry partners to the table for the project, Fennell added.

"The way the university pulled together different areas of expertise in fabric, test facilities and examining human behaviour, made the U of A the place to turn to. I am confident that



Dave Fennell tests the effectiveness of protective clothing against steam or hot-water burns.

their approach will come up with some answers to this issue."

The research will continue to expand, as U of A human ecology graduate students begin the next phase of developing new protective fabrics and designs for different types of safety garments, Crown added.

The project is jointly funded by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Imperial Oil Resources, Nexen, Total E&P, DuPont Canada, Davey Textile Solutions and a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Collaborative Research and Development Grant. Several fabric producers also contributed textiles to the project. ■

Finding Alberta success stories on water usage

Bev Betkowski

As water availability and usage become issues of concern in the province, the University of Alberta is leading the way in finding success stories that help find better ways to handle a precious and dwindling resource.

Funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Alberta Rural Development Network, water policy researcher Lars Hallstrom is heading a project that will examine how rural communities have managed to balance water usage with commercial and population growth.

"Water is an important natural resource in the province, with extreme variability of supply both seasonally and geographically," said Hallstrom, director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Com-

munities and an associate professor in both the departments of resource economics and environmental sociology and social sciences at Augustana Campus.

The research project arose from a provincial rural needs assessment, which identified a knowledge gap in what strategies may or may not already be working for rural communities that are pressed for water.

The problem of enough water is not a new one, Hallstrom noted. As far back as 1863, it was recommended that the southern half of Alberta not be settled because it was so dry.

"Most of our water is where the people and demand are not; 85 per cent of water is in northern Alberta and most of the people are in the southern half of the province. The agricultural irrigation in southern Alberta is, in fact,

some of the most intensive in the country," Hallstrom said.

Compound that fact with population growth, variable supply due to decreasing snow pack, rising industrial demand for water and what Hallstrom terms an obsolete "first in time, first in right" water licensing system, "if you throw in a drought year, you have all the makings for a crisis."

Some rural communities have, for a number of reasons, already run out of water, both from a regulatory standpoint and in practical terms since the water literally hasn't been available. That in turn, threatens rural sustainability, he added.

"If you want a rural community to grow, or even survive, you need water."

Working with an environmental consulting firm, the U of A will comb through water-related



Provincial waterways are some of the areas of focus of Lars Hallstrom's research.

scientific studies, as well as online information and community-level documents from across the province, to find out what water management strategies have—or haven't—worked for rural communities.

"This can help answer the question of where the success stories are, and why they worked," Hallstrom said. Once that information is gathered,

it will go to decision-makers in water policy and management, who will review and choose the strongest strategies. In turn, that knowledge will be shared through a provincial workshop with stakeholders such as watershed groups, water licencees, researchers and representatives from rural municipalities and counties to take back to their communities. ■

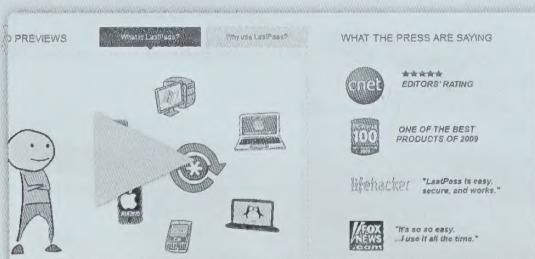
surf
city

<http://lastpass.com>

We all have a thousand things to remember a day. Keeping track of our login passwords and our CCIDs surely doesn't have to be another, does it?

A recently published article written by an IT tech listed the most common places people leave their passwords. Rounding out the list was under the computer keyboard, followed by under the mouse pad and under the phone.

Instead of keeping track of those pesky scraps of paper, the article recommends a downloadable, encrypted "password manager" that vaults passwords across all platforms, including PCs, Macs and smart phones. Now that's clever.



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news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on the ualberta.ca news page. To read more, go to www.news.ualberta.ca.

\$500,000 gift a welcome addition to real-estate chair

A commitment of \$500,000 for real estate education by the Alberta Real Estate Association continues to build on the foundation created by the Stan Melton Chair in Real Estate when they visited campus Nov. 2 to present the first of five installments to Kyle Murray, director of the School of Retailing.

"We're excited to support the Stan Melton Chair in Real Estate," said Madeline Sarafinchan, president-elect of the association. "Recognizing real estate as an important area of business specialization aligns with AREA's goals of advancing excellence within the industry."

The University of Alberta recently announced Professor David Dale-Johnson as the Stan Melton Chair in Real Estate, linking the chair with a respected and successful family business, Melcor Developments, and the Melton family. Dale-Johnson, previously the director of the Real Estate Program at the University of Southern California, is focusing on the school's expansion of the real estate curriculum offered to business students.

Celebrating the Margaret Scott Wright Research Day

On Oct. 28 more than 200 faculty, students and guests helped celebrate the 25th Annual Margaret Scott Wright Research Day by taking in 20 oral and 27 poster presentations. The theme of this year's conference was *Nursing Research: Advancing Knowledge, Advancing Health* and featured three plenary speakers.

Margaret Scott Wright Research Day was originally intended as a lectureship and an opportunity to showcase the research of faculty members and master's students. It has evolved into a platform for graduate students and faculty to share their ongoing research, and honours a nurse, a scholar, a researcher and a model leader in 21st-century nursing.

"For the last 25 years, the Margaret Scott Wright Research Day has provided an important forum for our faculty members and students to share their work with each other and with colleagues in the health-care system," said Anita Molzahn, dean of the Faculty of Nursing.

"Experienced and novice researchers alike use the opportunity to get feedback about their research ideas, approaches, and findings. They share the latest knowledge and innovations in the discipline of nursing. The opportunity for learning and networking both energizes and inspires others."

Remote monitoring for diabetics a first for Alberta

A first-in-Alberta research project, a collaboration between the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Alberta Health Services and the Sherwood Park - Strathcona County Primary Care Network, is giving Sherwood Park-area diabetics the technology to have their blood-glucose levels monitored remotely by doctors and health professionals.

During Phase 1 of the project, now underway, 30 diabetics enter their daily blood-glucose readings—measured from a pinprick drop of blood using a glucometer—into their online personal health record via a secure Internet connection.

With the patient's permission, physicians, nurses and home-care professionals can monitor glucose levels daily to ensure blood sugars are well controlled and to allow for quick action if they are not.

Phase 2 of the project, to begin in January, further simplifies the process. Glucose readings will be automatically transmitted into the patient's personal health record by wireless or USB glucometers, eliminating the need for the patient to type in the values.

Martin Ferguson-Pell, dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, says the technology can trigger action more quickly than sending a health professional to a patient's home.

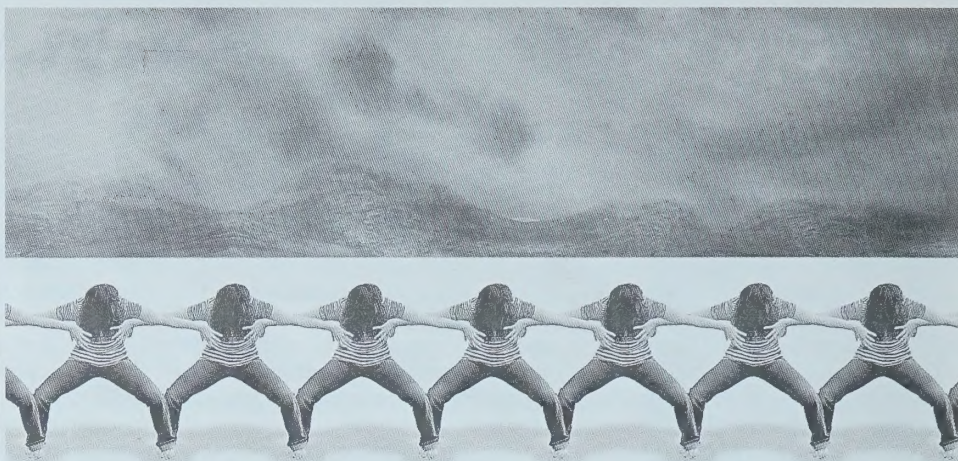
"The reading pops up in the doctor's or nurse's office," says Ferguson-Pell. "They can log on, look at the values, and quickly intervene if the trend is not going in the right direction."

John Woronuk honoured with Bulyea Cup

John Woronuk is the recipient of the 2011 Bulyea Cup, an award honouring highly distinguished individuals who have made major contributions to the Department of Dentistry and oral health education in Alberta. Woronuk was instrumental in establishing a student-exchange program between the U of A dental school and its counterpart in Dresden, Germany.

Woronuk joined the department in 1991 as the associate director of clinical affairs. Around 1998 he was appointed the director of technology development and transfer, a position he held until about 2002. During this time, the department was involved with developing a quiet turbine for high-speed dental hand pieces in co-operation with École de Technologie Supérieure in Quebec.

Woronuk's efforts and the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's support allowed the U of A dental school's association with Dresden to grow to an extent that exceeded his initial expectations. For Woronuk, dentistry was more than just a job—it was his life's work. He credits his wife of 55 years, Lorena, with encouraging him to pursue what sometimes appeared to be unreachable objectives. She and his children inspired him to dedicate his life to patient care and student learning, he says. As Woronuk reflects on his long career, he says he "feels blessed" to receive the Bulyea Cup award.



The Collective Memory Project: Responses to Eugenics in Alberta, runs Oct. 23-Nov. 23 at Extension Gallery in Enterprise Square.

Collection memories of Alberta's eugenics history

Bev Betkowski

Agata Derda grew up in Poland, but, intrigued with studying cultural differences, lived in Ireland as a young undergraduate arts student.

Along the way, she discovered something that inspires her work: "People are similar to each other, no matter where they were raised or where they live."

Now, as a master's student in the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts, Derda's explorations in printmaking contemplate the great human chain, and are included in *The Collective Memory Project*, an art show that opened Oct. 23 at the U of A's Faculty of Extension Gallery at Enterprise Square.

Featuring a range of contemporary art such as paintings, digital printmaking, sculptural mixed media and archival photographs, *The Collective Memory Project* contemplates both the legacy and contemporary attitudes about eugenic ideas in Alberta.

"There's a danger of forgetting Alberta's history with eugenics, and that sort of forgetting is not an idle happenstance; I would argue that eugenics—while being a dark, traumatic event in history that begs remembrance for ethical reasons—hasn't ended," said Anne Pasek, curator for the exhibit and a recent U of A Faculty of Arts graduate.

Between 1929 and 1972, more than 2,800 people who were deemed unfit by the government to raise families of their own underwent reproductive sterilization in Alberta. Other dark examples of Canadian eugenics policies include a head tax levied on Chinese immigrants and a residential school system that saw Aboriginal children seized from their families and their cultures.

But while those past actions have since been acknowledged by governments as unjust, some contemporary policies are also troubling, Pasek said.

"There are many aspects of public policy and collective ethics that are still profoundly influenced by eugenic ideas," including selective immigration policies that

screen out people with disabilities, and future ethical quandaries such as the question of "designer" babies, Pasek said.

The Collective Memory Project investigates how the concept of personhood "is unequally distributed in society," she added.

The show features 20 works submitted by artists from across Canada, including an incarcerated woman, a man with a learning disability and, from an East Coast artist, an ambitious piece of performance art from a walk through an Edmonton park named for Louise McKinney. McKinney, who became Alberta's first female MLA in 1917 and was a pioneer of women's rights, was also a supporter of eugenics policies.

Students from the University of Alberta also contributed to the *Collective Memory Project*, Derda among them. Her three black-and-white digital photo compositions in the show pay tribute human individuality, and at the same time, explore a common human bond.

"We are all elements, puzzles, pieces of a much bigger construction, which we all create and influence. By excluding some of the puzzles we make that image incomplete," said Derda. "Believing naively that our own experience is the most important and unique, we tend to overlook the fact that there is a world around us, and we are all part of it."

The show aims to widen the public's understanding of eugenics and make it a "contemporary concern, so hopefully when people view the art, they'll get a sense of how they can act on some of these problems," Pasek said.

The show will also feature a community board where people are encouraged to write their reflections on sticky notes that will be posted for a collective remembrance in keeping with the exhibit theme.

The Collective Memory Project runs at the Faculty of Extension Gallery in Enterprise Square, 10230-Jasper Avenue, until Nov. 23 and can be viewed from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Friday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekends. ■

classified ads

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

239 RHATIGAN ROAD. 4 bedroom, 4 bath, furnished executive home. Close to river valley, schools, university and transit. Must see! \$2,500/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

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U of A / WHYTE AVENUE. 10417 85 Ave. Furnished 2 bedroom house with updated amenities and renovated bathroom. \$2,200/month. Contact Darren Singh 780-989-2963 or cell: 780-710-7299.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Belgravia, semi-bungalow, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, south-facing sun room, new maple hardwood floor, oversized detached

garage, walking distance to U of A (78 Ave and 115 Street). Priced to sell \$459,000. Phone Robert at 780-934-1421.

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PROFESSOR SEEKS FURNISHED ACCOMMODATIONS. Quiet non-smoking professor (female) seeks accommodations, January-April 2012. Apartment sitting, sublet or house share. Walking distance or excellent public transit to U of A. 780-492-9079

A giant in the university's Department of Chemistry: a retrospective

Michael Brown

The university community is mourning the passing of a homegrown talent, one of the great researchers to work in the University of Alberta's vaunted chemistry department. Walter Harris, the prairie farm kid who almost single-handedly inspired the next generation of the world's analytical chemists, died Oct. 20. He was 96.

Born June 9, 1915, Harris grew up on a farm near Wetaskiwin, which helped develop his curiosity about the way things work. After graduating from high school, he left for the U of A where he uncovered a passion for chemistry. He received his bachelor of science degree from the U of A in 1938 and his master's degree in 1939 for studies of the distribution of selenium. He left the U of A for the University of Minnesota to study under Piet Kolthoff—the father of analytical chemistry in North America—where he completed a PhD in 1944.

When Harris returned to the U of A in 1946 to take a teaching position, the chemistry department had six academic staff teaching chemistry to more than 2,000 students; there were no teaching assistants and no analytical chemistry divisions.

In 1957, Harris took a leave of absence to do research in gas chromatography at the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. During

that time, analytical chemistry had begun to fall out of favour at cash-strapped universities. Despite post-war industry developing an ever-greater need for analytical chemists, universities across North America—including the University of Toronto and Massachusetts Institute of Technology—were closing their analytical programs. Harris returned to the U of A in 1958 and held steady to his chemistry convictions. He began recruiting and fostering an analytical program that would be the envy of universities around North America.

“Walter championed analytical chemistry at this university—without him it would be gone.

Ron Kratochvil

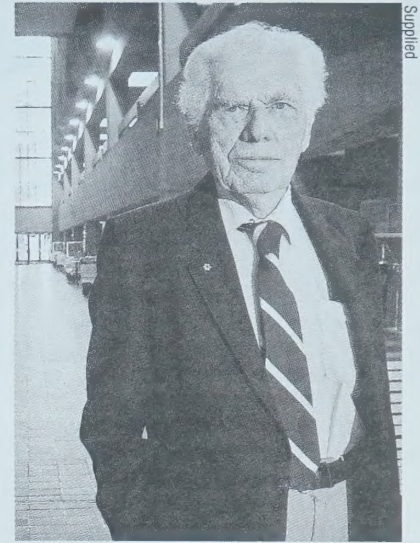
“Walter championed analytical chemistry at this university—without him it would be gone,” said Ron Kratochvil at the U of A in 1998. Kratochvil was an analytical chemistry recruit who teamed with Harris to publish the seminal textbook *An Introduction to Chemical Analysis*. “There’s a huge need for analytical chemistry now for the kind of

work our people are doing,” Kratochvil said at the time. “It’s just growing in all directions. The analytical chemistry program here is the best in Canada, and, I’m told, among the top three in North America. None of it would have happened without Walter Harris and his battle to preserve it here.”

In his first decade, Harris developed the first instrumental methods of analysis course in Canada that still bears his name. Harris would serve as chemistry department chair from 1974–1978. During his career he contributed to 25 scientific advisory councils and played a leading role in the proper disposal of Alberta’s hazardous wastes. Harris was named to the Order of Canada, was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, received two honorary degrees and served as an active professor emeritus at the U of A from his retirement in 1980 until his passing.

“He had a keen ability to see clearly,” said Jed Harrison, chair of the chemistry department. “After retirement, Walter consulted for the provincial and federal governments, the university, Atomic Energy Canada, to name a few, playing a crucial role as an advisor that was quite important and was a large part of what earned him the Order of Canada. Those kinds of invitations spoke to the clarity that he did have.”

Harrison says he remembers a generous man who always gave his time, insights and



Walter Harris

thoughts about things freely.

“It’s striking how much his passing has impacted current and former members of the department,” said Harrison. “It is clear from the sadness over his death just how much he meant to our department members.” ■

- With notes from previous New Trail and Folio stories.

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and at www.news.ualberta.ca/events. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Nov. 7

Writing Concisely and Chocolate Cake. The Centre for Writers invites you to this fee, weekly workshop on the English language. Free food. Noon–1 p.m. Assiniboia Hall 1-2 3.

Economics department micro-seminar: Dennis Coates, professor at the University of Maryland, will give a talk entitled “Uncertainty of Outcome, Loss Aversion and Framing: Evidence from Major League Baseball.” 3:30–5 p.m. 8-22 Tory Building.

Nov 8

Grant Writing Initiatives: Part 1—The Argumentative Strategies of Grant Writing. To register go to <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=5375>. 10–11:30 a.m. Oborowsky Degner Seminar Hall, 1-040 Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation.

Nov. 9

Communications and Technology Webinar. Some reflections about Web 2.0 as a vehicle of knowledge among

patients. 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. Online access by contacting mact@ualberta.ca.

Faculty/Grad Student Workshop. XiaoGang Che will be giving a talk entitled “The Role of a Temporary Buyout Option in Internet Auctions.” Noon–1 p.m. 8-22 Tory.

Nov. 10

SEE Research at Work Seminar Series. Miles Dyck, assistant professor, Department of Renewable Resources, will be giving a seminar entitled Energy Efficient Waste Management. Noon–1:30 p.m. Alberta School of Business, Stollery Executive Development Centre 5-04.

Forest Industry Lecture Series No. 66. Don Roberts, vice-chairman, CIBC World Markets, will give a talk entitled “The Global Competition for Land: The 4 Fs (Food, Feed, Fibre and Fuel).” 3–4:45 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Nov. 14

Health Law Seminar Series. Fay Orr, Alberta mental health patient advocate, will give a talk entitled “How Mental Health Law Affects the Patient Experience.” Please RSVP to hli@law.ualberta.ca. Noon–1 p.m. Room 237, Law Centre University of Alberta.

Nov. 15

SSHRC Annual Lecture: Sovereign Claims: Visualizing Deception in Body and Nation. Lianne McTavish, professor in the History of Art, Design and Visual Culture, will give a talk entitled “Displaying the Health of the King in 17th Century France,” and Frank

Tough, professor of native studies, will discuss “Métis versus Canada: Self Dispossession or Polite Fraud?” 3:30–5:15 p.m. Lecture theatre 2-490 Edmonton Clinic Health Academy. For more, go to www.research.ualberta.ca.

Nov. 16

Augustana Information Literacy in Academic Libraries Workshop. “Building the Information Literate University: From Concept to Strategic Change.” Sheila Webber and Bill Johnston will outline how conceptualizing an information literate university can enable you to demonstrate that information literacy is essential to the success of the whole university. <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/augustana/infolit/workshop/>. For more information, go to nancy.goebel@ualberta.ca. 780-679-1189. All day. Augustana Campus, Camrose

Nov. 16

Division of Geriatric Medicine Presents Simon Conroy, a senior lecturer and head of service for geriatric medicine at the University Hospital of Leicester, United Kingdom, will be on hand to give a lecture entitled “Different approaches to medical crises in frail older people.” 5–6 p.m.

Nov. 16 & 17 Fall convocation

Nov. 16, 3–6 p.m. Arts, Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, Education, Physical Education and Recreation, Campus Saint-Jean, Native Studies, Augustana.

Nov. 17, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Graduate Studies and Research (master's degrees only), Rehabilitation (master's degrees only), Public Health (master's degrees only)

3–6 p.m. Graduate Studies and Research (doctoral degrees only), Science, Law, Medicine and Dentistry, Engineering, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Business, Nursing

Jubilee Auditorium. <http://registrar.ualberta.ca>

Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation, Room 1-040.

Nov. 17

Parks Canada Open House. Fireside chat with the superintendents of Jasper and Elk Island National Parks. 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. www.pc.gc.ca/Jasper

Engineering chairs invite input

Chair selection committees for the departments of chemical and materials engineering, civil and environmental engineering, and mechanical engineering are being established. Suggestions and comments to these committees are to be made by Friday, Dec. 16, by writing to David Lynch, dean of engineering, E6-050 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex.

laurels

Dean John Kennelly has been selected to become a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. The fellowship is the highest honour bestowed by the institute and recognizes an individual who has made a distinguished contribution to Canadian agriculture through contributions to agricultural scientific capacity for societal good, integration and collaboration between disciplines and sectors, and communications.

iHuman Youth Society, in partnership with the University of Alberta, was awarded Gold for its program “High Risk Youth Uncensored: An Educational Exchange” at the 17th annual Laurel Awards, hosted by the law firm Duncan & Craig LLP. Underway since fall 2009, the participatory research project “Uncensored” is a partnership between the U of A's

Faculty of Education, the not-for-profit community arts-based youth organization iHuman Youth Society and the Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services High Risk Youth Unit. Based on a need identified by the community, the project involves a number of iHuman youth as key collaborators working at developing a series of arts-based workshops to educate service providers about how to best meet the particular needs of the high risk youth populations they serve. Youth are involved in identifying issues, developing curriculum materials and presenting the workshops. Duncan & Craig LLP established the Laurel Awards to honour non-profit organizations who further their objectives through exceptional creativity and innovation.

the BackPage

Ghouls, goblins, zombies and their non-zombie friends filled the Main Gym in the Van Vliet Centre at noon Oct. 31 to celebrate the season by learning the Michael Jackson's *Thriller* zombie dance in support of the U of A's United Way Campaign.



THRILLER

Photos by Richard Siemens

